

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /074 W
-----100921Z 096263 /10

R 091020Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1240
INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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NDJAMENA FOR USDATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, PINS, FR, CM, US
SUBJ: FRENCH INFORMED ABOUT SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: YAOUNDE 928 (NOTAL)

1. SINCE ADMINISTRATION'S SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS WERE MADE PUBLIC MARCH 2 (CARRIED BY SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO) AND I HAD INFORMED GURC OF LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE, I INSTRUCTED DCM TO ENLIGHTEN FRENCH EMBASSY.

2. MARCH 5 DCM SAW JACQUES NEGRE, FIRST COUNSELOR, AND COL. LA MORT, DEFENSE ATTACHE. DCM TOLD THEM THAT AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAS ASKED HIM TO INFORM THEM THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD PROPOSED TO CONGRESS A \$5 MILLION FMS PROGRAM TO ASSIST GURC IN ACQUIRING THE NECESSARY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO MEET THEIR PERCEIVED SECURITY NEEDS DUE TO NEIGHBORING UNSTABLE AND ERRATIC GOVERNMENTS. POINT WAS MADE THAT THIS WAS NOT AN EFFORT TO REPLACE FRENCH, BUT TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO A REQUEST BY A MUTUALLY FRIENDLY COUNTRY. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT FMS WOULD BE

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USED TO PURCHASE APC'S WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PURCHASED FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES AND TO STANDARDIZE ON M-16 RIFLES. COL. LA MORT SAID THAT HE KNEW GURC WANTED ADDITIONAL APC'S AND HAD PROJECTED STANDARDIZATION ON M-16. HE OBSERVED THAT THE MILITARY HAD BEEN TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER A BUDGET SINCE LAST OCTOBER AND THEY HAD A SHOPPING LIST CONSIDERABLY IN EXCESS OF THEIR BUDGET LIMITATIONS. HE ASKED IF GURC HAD MADE ANY

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS AND DCM SAID THEY HAD INQUIRED ABOUT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT BUT, BECAUSE OF EXPENSE, HAD BEEN DISCOURAGED FROM PURSUING REQUEST (OTHER ITEMS ON ORIGINAL GURC LIST NOT MENTIONED). DCM INQUIRED IF GURC HAD REQUESTED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM FRENCH OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY. LA MORT RESPONDED IN THE NEGATIVE ON BOTH COUNTS.

3. NEGRE COMMENTED THAT GURC QUITE WORRIED ABOUT COMMUNIST INFLUENCE EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND RECENT DELIVERY SOVIET ARMS CHAD. HE PERSONALLY AND FRENCH GOVERNMENT THOUGHT GURC OVER-REACTING AND THAT THERE REALLY NO DANGER. DCM AGREED, BUT SAID PRESENT MODEST PROGRAM SHOULD HELP REASSURE GURC THAT THEY ARE NOT IN ISOLATED POSITION, ABANDONED BY THEIR FRIENDS.

4. LA MORT ASKED IF GURC KNEW WE INFORMING FRENCH AND DCM RESPONDED IN NEGATIVE. FRENCH EMBASSY BEING INFORMED BECAUSE AMBASSADOR THOUGHT THEY SHOULD KNOW IN VIEW THEIR HOSTORIC ROLE AND COMMON CONCERN OF BOTH COUNTRIES ABOUT CAMEROON. DCM OBSERVED THAT IT WAS FRENCH AMBASSADOR WHO HAD INFORMED HIM OF GURC'S REQUEST FOR ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET AIMS IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

5. COMMENT: BOTH NEGRE AND LA MORT APPEARED GENUINELY APPRECIATIVE OF BEING INFORMED. DCM DID NOT REVEAL THAT REQUEST HAD BEEN IN WORKS SINCE JULY 5 AND THEY OBVIOUSLY ASSUMED THAT IT HAD BEEN MADE RECENTLY. THEY HAVE ALSO NOT BEEN TOLD THAT THIS MAY BE MORE THAN A ONE-YEAR PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THEY WERE GRATEFUL TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION WHICH WAS ALREADY IN PUBLIC DOMAIN. OBVIOUSLY, FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON DID NOT THINK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS MATTER OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO REPORT FORWARD.
SPIRO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977YAOUND01014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770082-0444
Format: TEL
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770375/aaaacomp.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a2bcd1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 YAOUNDE 928
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3155795
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH INFORMED ABOUT SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, PINS, FR, CM, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a2bcd1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009